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12 DEC 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : CORONA Procurements for Fiscal Years
1964 and 1965.

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Current procurement for CORONA/MURAL systems (dual camera, single recovery, THOR launched) is for six systems. Of these six systems, three have been launched to date. The fourth of the six systems is scheduled for launch in mid December. The remaining two will be available for launch in the first quarter of calendar 1964. Other than these six CORONA/MURAL systems, all CORONA systems being procured are CORONA/J (dual camera, dual recovery, TAT launched).
3. It was initially contemplated that the six CORONA/MURAL systems would be available for emergency (R-7 launch) capability. Because of the problems on CORONA/J, the CORONA/MURAL systems are being used to supply current normal CORONA needs. It is expected that the capability equivalent to the R-7 condition will be met with CORONA/J after the CORONA/MURAL systems have been launched.
4. The CORONA/J systems can be reconfigured to CORONA/MURAL systems with only moderate loss of time. If the decision to reconfigure is made at least 30 days before launch, no additional time will be required. As the postulated launch date of the CORONA/J system approaches, delays of up to a week may be encountered. The exact amount of delay depends upon the amount of testing which the CORONA/J system has undergone and the amount of retesting required for the CORONA/MURAL system. Actual reconfiguration time is very short.
5. The current status of the CORONA/J system appears satisfactory. The third CORONA/J system has passed pre-flight tests and is now undergoing final preparations for launch in early January (two CORONA/J systems have been launched).

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Difficulties with the CORONA/J in the past have been primarily concerned with the second half of the operation; the first half (equivalent to a CORONA/MURAL operation) has experienced little more difficulty than CORONA/MURAL.

6. To Summarize:

A. Current plans include capability for only two more CORONA/MURAL standby launches following the December CORONA/MURAL launch. These will disappear when systems are used to fill in gaps from CORONA/J launches, slippages or failures.

B. Emergency standby capability through the balance of FY 1964 and 1965 can only be met with CORONA/J systems, as CORONA/J or reconfigured to CORONA/MURAL.

C. CORONA/J systems can be reconfigured to CORONA/MURAL systems, if desired.

D. No additional CORONA/MURAL system procurements are planned for FY 1964 and 1965.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

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